

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ELAB, SEDU, TBIO
SUBJECT: MEDICAL EDUCATION

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL ON MINISTER OF EDUCATION JULY 24 MINISTER RAISED QUESTION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR BAHRAINIS AND BROADER QUESTION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TOO SMALL TO SUPPORT THEIR OWN MEDICAL SCHOOLS. BAHRAIN NEEDS TO MAKE YEARLY INPUT OF TWENTY FIVE STUDENTS IN ORDER TO MEET ITS MEDICAL NEEDS. HOWEVER, BAHRAIN IS ABLE TO SECURE ONLY TEN PLACES IN EGYPTIAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND PERHAPS ANOTHER FOUR IN SAUDI ARABIA. GOB IS HAVING GREAT DIFFICULTY FINDING REMAINDER OF NEEDED PLACES AND MINISTER WONDERED IF USG COULD HELP.

2. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED FOR MINISTER TREMENDOUS PRESSURES ON ALL U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND POINTED OUT THAT SCHOOLS ARE EITHER PRIVATE OR UNDER CONTROL OF STATES; THERE IS LITTLE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN DO IN THIS AREA. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD ASK IF THERE IS ANY MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS MAY AT LEAST GET INFO ABOUT U.S. MEDICAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES, BUT ADDED THAT ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN U.S. IS INDIVIDUAL MATTER NOT GOVERNMENTAL ONE.

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3. MINISTER CONTINUED THAT ACCESS TO GOOD EDUCATION IN OTHER FIELDS IS EXCELLENT IN U.S., CANADA AND U.K. BUT THAT MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR BAHRAINIS AND CITIZENS OF OTHER SMALL STATES IS SERIOUS PROBLEM. HE POINTED OUT GOB'S DESIRE TO KEEP STUDENTS OUT OF COUNTRIES WHERE THERE ARE POLITICAL STRINGS ATTACHED TO EDUCATION, SUCH AS IRAQ OR SOVIET UNION, AND SAID GOB IS INCREASINGLY

SUCCESSFUL IN THIS EXCEPT WHEN IT COMES TO MEDICINE.
THERE SIMPLY ARE NO OPENINGS IN THE WEST AND THIS IS GIVING
SOVIETS AND OTHERS, LIKE IRAQIS, CHANCE TO TRAIN, AND
INDOCTRINATE, DOCTORS. HE SAID HE HAS DISCUSSED THIS
PROBLEM WITH COLLEAGUES FROM OTHER SMALL COUNTRIES WHO
AGREE THAT THIS IS AREA WHERE THE WEST IS MISSING A BET.
MINISTER SAID IT WOULD HELP IF WESTERN
COUNTRIES COULD TOGETHER WORK OUT SYSTEM
WHEREBY LITTLE COUNTRIES LIKE BAHRAIN COULD BE
ALLOCATED ENOUGH SPACES IN WESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOLS TO
MEET THEIR NEEDS. HIT OR MISS CHANCES OF INDIVIDUAL
APPLICANTS IS SIMPLY NOT RELIABLE WAY TO PLAN FUTURE
HEALTH CARE OF LITTLE COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE AWARE OF PROBLEMS AND CONTROVERSY
SURROUNDING MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR FOREIGNERS IN HARD-
PRESSED U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOLS BUT WONDER ALSO IF MINISTER
MAY NOT HAVE A GOOD POINT, AND PERHAPS IN IDEA WORTH
EXPLORING. WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING WHAT DEPT AND AID
THINKING IS IN THIS AREA AND WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WE
CLUD TELL GOB ABOUT WAYS TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEM.
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